

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-07 EB-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 NSCE-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01

DRC-01 IO-03 CU-03 /065 W
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R 160930Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5787

USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBUORG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3051

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR

SUBJ CSCE: RUMORED SOVIET

CHANGE IN POSITION ON TIMING OF STAGE III

REF USNATO 2693

1. RUMOR REPORTED PARAS 8 AND 9 OF REFTEL DERIVES

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FROM A COMMENT MADE TO THE HEAD OF THE NORWEGIAN

CSCE DELEGATION (MEVIK) BY A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE SOVIET DEL (AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH), AND REPORTED BY MEVIK TO THE NATO DELEGATION HEADS' CAUCUS. MENDELEVICH APPARENTLY SAID SOVIETS STILL PREFERRED PHASE III AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT ASKED HOW WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD FEEL IF IT WERE NOT POSSIBLE TO HOLD PHASE III IN JULY, AND PHASE II WERE RECESSED UNTIL SOME TIME IN THE AUTUMN. MEVIK DID NOT REPORT ANY MENTION OF LEVEL OF PHASE III.

2. MENDELEVICH REPORTEDLY STRESSED THE CONTINGENCY PLANNING ASPECT OF HIS INQUIRY, AND INDICATED SOVIETS STILL PREFERRED A THIRD PHASE IN JULY, IF POSSIBLE.

3. WITH THE MANY CONTACTS WHICH TAKE PLACE EVERY DAY HERE AMONG MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, THIS SORT OF STORY CIRCULATES RATHER FREQUENTLY. IN THIS CASE, IT MAY HAVE GAINED SOME CURRENCY AMONG WESTERN DELEGATIONS WHO ALREADY FEEL IT WILL BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO CONCLUDE PHASE II IN TIME FOR A THIRD PHASE THIS SUMMER.

4. THE SOVIETS MAY BE REVIEWING THEIR PLANNING IN LIGHT OF GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN FRANCE AND FRG, AND THEY COULD CONCLUDE THAT A PHASE III SUMMIT MAY BE MORE POSSIBLE AFTER THESE NEW GOVERNMENTS HAVE HAD A FEW MONTHS TO SETTLE IN. NEVERTHELESS, OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD STILL PREFER A THIRD PHASE SUMMIT IN JULY, IF POSSIBLE. ABRAMS

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